

Commissioner Meeting
May 9, 2016

Chairman Brian Hind called the regular meeting of the Greenwood County Commissioners to order at 9:00 a.m. Other members present were Ben Fox, Cole Conard, and Kathy Robison, County Clerk. Paul Dean, County Counselor arrived at 9:13 a.m.

No Commission Meeting Minutes.

Roger Lowe, Road and Bridge Supervisor, was unable to attend the meeting, however, the following report was turned in: worked on Pixley Bridge, fixed both ends and unplugged it; worked on other bridges in north part of the county fixing washouts and unplugging bridges from the previous rains; normal patrolling; ditched on lake road north of Wiggins Ranch for ditch cleaning while fence was removed; Roger/Darrel did a new lagoon inspection in the Severy area; waiting on return calls in reference to chip/seal information; Rhonda is still on return call with information about when more FEMA funds are to be received; Rhonda called and left a message for Seimers' Construction with Jonathan and made contact with Judd Everett, about meeting to look at Curry Bridge; received calls from both to schedule meetings.

Commissioners viewed weekly Treasurer's Report.

Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve payroll in the amount of \$86,214.28. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Conard made a motion to approve payables in the amount of \$120,119.14. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Fox made a motion to approve abatements in the amount of \$10.10. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Commissioner Hind said with the recent budget cuts by congress to higher education, the Extension Office, which is considered higher education as it's handled through Kansas State University, had been assessed some funding reductions and were recently required to send back some of their state funds they received. Commissioner Hind said he wasn't sure but it looked like they may be required to return more in the future as well.

Commissioner Conard announced that Ed Cornett recently resigned from his position as Fire Chief in Severy, a title he held for 25 years. The commissioners expressed their appreciation for Cornett and Commissioner Conard reported that a replacement chief has been identified.

Commissioner Fox made a motion for a 10 minute executive session for personnel with Lela Day, Health Department Administrator. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After the executive session with Day, commissioners reported that two employees of the Health Department will be taking Family Medical Leave and Day will be hiring temporary help in the office.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 15 minute executive session for legal with Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After returning from the executive session, commissioners discussed a situation with a stone arch bridge, northwest of Piedmont. Commissioner Conard explained that in 2003, a new bridge was built at that location. Because the community wanted to save the old stone bridge, the road was re-routed over the river and the new bridge was built approximately 50 yards over. The old bridge was added to the Historical Registry and it remained open to foot traffic. Recently, an adjacent landowner has claimed that the bridge is on his property and closed any public access to it. Problems created by the property owner's stance have required deputies from the Greenwood County Sheriff's Office to respond on more than one occasion. After checking with the deeds office, County Counselor, Paul Dean, told commissioners that it had been determined that the bridge was not only county property, but the land between the old road and the new one was county property as well, leaving the old bridge open to the public.

Mike Pitko, past mayor of Eureka, stopped by to commend the commission on their work. He said, "You are doing a good job." While he was there, commissioners asked him about the old stone bridge being on the Historical Registry, as Pitko is on the Greenwood County Historical Society board. Pitko said he thought there was a bridge out there, but he wasn't sure of its exact location.

Commissioner Fox said he had received an email from AT & T regarding the recent overcharging of the monthly phone bills and they have issued a partial refund. Commissioner Fox said they should be working on the rest, as well.

Commissioner Fox also reported that volunteers from the VFW had recently re-roofed the courthouse lawn gazebo and he wanted to thank them.

The commissioners received a letter from Allen Wyckoff regarding the recent road closing he had brought to their attention at an earlier meeting. Wyckoff advised commissioners in the letter that he has hired an attorney in order to obtain access to his land. Commissioners have initiated proceedings to reclose the road and make the language clearer. Conard said, "We're going to proceed to close the road, but I don't see how it helps him because it still doesn't get him to his property." Conard added that he had contacted the Corps of Engineers and there may be a discrepancy about the water easements on the Wyckoff property as well.

Commissioner Hind relayed that Road and Bridge Supervisor, Roger Lowe, contacted Douglas County to inquire about their chip/seal projects and had been informed they received a bid for chip/seal for approximately \$22,000 per mile. "so the bid of \$42,000 from APAC was definitely out of line," said Hind.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 10 minute recess. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

After returning from the 10 minute recess, Commissioner Hind reported that he had talked to a representative from KDOT who reported another problem with the Esslinger Bridge project. This one regarding drilling for the concrete footings, and not finding the limestone bedrock they had hoped for, instead, they found a layer of shale. They wanted the commissioners to give them permission to proceed, however, the commission, felt the Engineers (Cook, Flat & Strobel) and GeoSource should do that, they are more qualified and paid for the project. Both firms relayed that their contracts were completed and the issues were not their responsibility. County Counselor, Paul Dean made some phone calls during the meeting and reported back to the commission that GeoSource had indeed come out and drilled in several places, creating the report of where the bedrock was. "Their part should be finished," said Dean. He added that the services had cost the county between

\$16,000-\$17,000. Cook, Flat and Strobel, who designed the bridge still has an active contract and should still be involved. Michael Maris, of Elite Engineering Services, LLC, is overseeing the project.

Courthouse Maintenance Supervisor, Jason Findley, reported to commissioners that the Trane repairman had come and fixed the air conditioner. There was a pretty substantial leak in the rear where a plate was installed.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 5 minute executive session for legal with Paul Dean, County Counselor. Commissioner Conard seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

Commissioner Hind made a motion for a 5 minute executive session for personnel with Sheriff Rusty Bitler. Commissioner Fox seconded the motion. The motion carried.

No decision was made.

At 10:25a.m. Commissioner Fox made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Hind seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Calendar:

May 16th- Next Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: Kathy Robinson
Kathy Robinson, County Clerk



Brian Hind
Brian Hind, Chairman

Ben Fox
Ben Fox, Vice Chairman

Cole Conard
Cole Conard, Member